

education of our nation's children. I hope Members will join me in support of this important initiative and the historic shift that it represents.

IN MEMORY OF MELVIN LEE  
THOMAS

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to remember a dear friend of the Oakland, California community who has recently passed on.

Melvin Lee Thomas, a great friend, father, and grandfather, was a remarkable member of the Oakland community. A veteran of the United States Marine Corp, he served his country with tremendous loyalty.

Melvin attended several schools in the Oakland area, including John Muir School in Alameda, Clawson Elementary School, Golden Gate Junior High School, and Oakland Technical High School.

Mel, as he was fondly called, served with distinction in the United States Marine Corp from 1958 to 1964. He served with a marine assault battalion in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. His family and friends were never so proud or relieved when he returned home unscathed from his service to our nation.

Mr. Thomas was a lover of nature, the outdoors, and the sea. Some of his favorite pastimes were spent on the ocean enjoying its wonders. He loved watching beautiful sunsets from the ocean. Mel enjoyed listening to good music and Jazz was his favorite. He also was an avid reader. He enjoyed the exploration of the world of the mind.

Mel is survived by his only daughter, Nerissa Thomas; his granddaughter, Jordan Mykaela Bess; his three brothers James Keith, Andrew Rodgers, and Anthony Rodgers; and his uncle, John Elsie Byrd.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great man. Mr. Thomas will truly be missed by all members of the Oakland community. His dedication to his country, family, and friends will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
CAREER OF ROBERT "BUD" RALSTON  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2000*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Bud Ralston has spent his life serving the people. He was born in McConnellsville on March 30th, 1926 and came to Caldwell in 1936 when his father purchased a drugstore which his mother continued to operate after his father's death later that same year.

At the age of 17, Bud joined the U.S. Marine Corp. He served in the 77th Special Infantry Company from 1950 to 1964 and attained the rank of Platoon Sergeant.

In 1948, he returned to Caldwell to help his mother run the drugstore. After his mother's

death in 1962, Bud continued to operate the business until 1986. In 1957, he purchased Wehr's Clothing Store, which came to be known as "Bud's Clothing."

Bud served as Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and was the first WWII Commander of the 5th District in the State of Ohio.

His community involvement continued as a member of the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department from 1948–1990, serving as Fire Chief for 18 years. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Shrine and the United Methodist Church. Bud has also been active with the Board of Directors of the Noble County Chamber of Commerce, of which he served as President, as well as the Caldwell Athletic Boosters.

Since 1992, Bud has served as the mayor of Caldwell. During this time, he has upgraded the sewer and water plants, built the water tower and lines to the state prison and was instrumental in obtaining the Noble Correctional Institution. Additionally, Bud has overseen the pavement of many streets and alleys, planted over 250 trees, installed new water lines to surrounding areas and helped the village become a showplace in the Revitalization Project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the career of Bud Ralston. His lifelong service and commitment to the region is to be commended. I am proud to call him a constituent and a friend.

ETHICAL CONCERNS WITH THE  
HUMAN GENOME PROJECT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I speak about some ethical concerns with the human genome project. The recent announcement of the rough draft of the human genome presents another milestone in the recent human enterprise that we call science. The question before us today is the societal consequences of this new development. The role of government is to promote the public good, and to this end it is necessary to address the public concerns related to the human genome project. These concerns may be divided into the following topics: (1) reverence for life, (2) privacy concerns, (3) intellectual property concerns, (4) modification of the genetic code of individuals, and (5) the public's access to data derived from a publicly funded project.

The propensity for people to use science and technology to pursue their ideology is well documented in the eugenics and sterilization movements that occurred in both the United States and in Nazi Germany. Shall the data from the human genome project be used to terminate the birth of individuals who may express genes for childhood diseases?

Government laws that address the concern of individual privacy must be modified to include protection of both the individual's genetic code as well as other types of privacy. The President issued an Executive Order to protect an individual's privacy in both hiring and promotion in the civilian federal work force. These actions are to be applauded. Individual protections should be much broader; all countries should agree to an international law on human genetic privacy.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office must strike a balance between its Constitutional mandate to promote science and the useful arts, and its role in protecting the general public good. Under the current system, it is possible to patent a gene without a knowledge of the gene's function. This may not be in the public good since it will tend to hinder private sector research to cure diseases.

There are great ethical concerns about the use of the technology to modify an individual's genetic code. We are familiar with the abuse of medical intervention, specifically injections of human growth hormone to alter a child's stature. Parents choose this intervention because they perceive that taller children would be at an advantage. Will some parents similarly choose to modify their genetic code in order that their prodigy will be similarly "advantaged." Will we modify the genetic code of parents to produce a new "master race"?

Another important public concern whether or not the public will have access to the data derived from a publicly funded project. It would be consistent with the promotion of the public good that everyone have access to the results of the human genome project.

Finally, we recognize that humankind is more than its genetic code. While science can inform us what is, and what can be, the humanities, religion, and ethics informs us how we shall be and what we shall be. Government oversight has an important responsibility to insure and safeguard the public good. While I applaud the human achievement, a truly international enterprise, in the "reading" of the human genome, I urge everyone to address with deep thought and human compassion the important societal consequences that I have enumerated.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS BOYS RANCH  
OF LUBBOCK

**HON. LARRY COMBEST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2000*

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas Boys Ranch of Lubbock in celebration of their 25th Anniversary Telethon on August 26th, 2000. Texas Boys Ranch provides adolescent boys of the South Plains an opportunity to realize their dreams and reach their goals.

The Texas Boys Ranch began in 1975 as a way for community leaders to minister to the lives of troubled youth. For 25 years, Texas Boys Ranch has served over 400 boys and young men from all walks of life. Texas Boys Ranch is a working ranch with cattle, hogs, horses, and ponies. In addition to their full academic schedules, the boys live on the ranch and are required to preform chores in their cottages and on the ranch. Texas Boys Ranch also offers a unique program to young men age 17 or older. The Independent Living Program allows these men to live at the Ranch's Cottage III, where they are given the responsibility to make choices regarding their day to day lives.

For the past 25 years, the Texas Boys Ranch has provided boys and young men of the South Plains with a stable environment in